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# Director's Introduction

2004 was another excellent year for the CSSR. We fielded several large surveys, raised new funding, continued with our AIDS outreach activities, hosted a vibrant seminar series as well as workshops and conferences, supported many graduate students, and produced a large body of published output.

Our main research projects included the continuing Cape Area Panel Study (CAPS) and Breerivier Area Study, linked qualitative studies of adolescence in Cape Town, a survey of South African voters in the aftermath of the April elections, surveys and related qualitative research on HIV-positive patients on treatment programmes, qualitative and quantitative research on stigma around AIDS, and re-interviews with people in Khayelitsha who were first interviewed in 2000. It has been particularly gratifying that our inter-disciplinary emphasis is reflected in collaborative research projects between the different units within the CSSR.

Most of our research is published first in our Working Paper series, before being submitted to international and local journals or being published in book-form. By the end of 2004 we had published 100 working papers, and by late 2004, CSSR researchers had published thirty-six articles in accredited journals, twenty-

six chapters in books, and five books.

During 2004 we expanded massively our support for PhD students, especially in political science. Almost all of our surveys have utilised the services of student interns. This has helped build capacity for survey research and encouraged many students to undertake post-graduate research using our data sets. CSSR has also built capacity at community level by training a group of Xhosa-speaking women as field workers. This 'A-team' now conducts all our surveys in African areas of Cape Town.

This year also saw the launch of CSSR's Master's course in 'Problem-Driven Social Science Research'. Sections were taught by myself, Bob Mattes, Jeremy Seekings and Matthew Welch. It proved to be exciting and popular, and we will be offering it again next year.

Late in the year the CSSR was reviewed for the first time by an external review panel. The review process provided a valuable impetus to us to reflect on our weaknesses as well as our achievements, and to consider how to meet the challenges facing us. We were gratified that the external reviewers submitted a very positive report.

The only sad event in 2004 was the retirement of Professor Francis Wilson, the founding Director of the Data First Resource

Unit. Francis's energy and vision were cornerstones of the establishment of the CSSR. Francis has inspired generations of younger social scientists with his strong commitment to social science and social justice. We wish him a productive retirement – and hope that this will include a continued role within the CSSR.

2004 also marks my final year as Director of the CSSR. I am very pleased to report that Prof Johannes Fedderke will be taking over as Director of the Data First Resource Unit and as Director of the CSSR from 2005. Prof Fedderke, who is an economist by training, brings a strong research record and substantial energy to the CSSR. We all look forward to working with him in the future.

*Professor Nicoli Natrass  
Director of the CSSR*



*Professor Francis Wilson*



*Students who attended our new CSSR masters course in 'problem-driven social science research' which was held in Data First's Resource Centre*